

We Claim:

1 1. An apparatus for examining a document having identification information associated with
2 a first entity comprising:

3 a computing device having a memory;

4 a computer program, for execution in the computing device, for determining a second
5 entity associated with said document in response to information read from said document that is
6 not provided by said first entity.

2 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said computer program further includes a routine for
3 retrieving said identification information associated with said first entity and a routine for
4 dividing said identification information into fields in response to information read from said
5 document.

3 3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said computer program further includes a routine for
4 retrieving an ANSI user ID from information read from said document in response to
5 information read from said document.

1 4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said computer program further includes a routine
2 retrieving an issuer identification number in response to information read from said document.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said computer program further includes a routine
2 retrieving an ANSI user ID in response to information read from said document.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said computer program further includes a routine for
2 retrieving said identification information associated with said first entity.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said determining routine further includes retrieving a
2 jurisdictional identifier corresponding to said second entity.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said jurisdictional identifier is an ANSI user ID.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said jurisdictional identifier is a issuer identification
2 number.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 1 further including a reader for reading information from said
2 document.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said reader is selected from the group consisting of a
2 digital scanner, a magnetic reader, and a bar code scanner.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 2 further including an output device for outputting information
2 corresponding to at least one of said fields.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said output device is selected from the group
2 consisting of a display screen, a speaker, a printer, and a light emitting diode.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 1 further including a communication link to a remote device.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said communication link includes a modem.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said communications link is wireless.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 2 further including:

2 a communication link to a remote device; and

3 said computer program includes a routine for uploading at least one of said fields to said
4 remote device.

1 18. An apparatus for examining a document having identification information associated with
2 a first entity comprising:

3 a computing device having a memory;

4 a computer program, for execution in the computing device, having a routine for
5 determining a second entity associated with said document in response to information read from
6 said document that is provided by a source other than said first entity.

1 19. The apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said determining routine includes retrieving
2 an issuing identifier corresponding to said second entity.

1 20. The apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the issuing identifier is an ANSI user id.

1 21. The apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the issuing identifier is an IIN.

1 22. The apparatus according to claim 19 wherein said computer program further includes a
2 routine for dividing information from said document into fields in response to information read
3 from said document.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 22 further including a reader to read information from said
2 document.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 23 further including an output device for outputting at least one of
2 said fields.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24 further including a communications link for connecting to a
2 remote device.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said remote device is selected from the group
2 consisting of a computer, a reader and an output device.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein said reader is selected from the group consisting of a
2 magnetic stripe reader; a bar code scanner and a digital scanner.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said output device is selected from the group
2 consisting of a display screen, an audio output, an LED and a printer.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein said computer program includes a routine for
2 comparing at least one of said fields to at least one predetermined value.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said document is an ID Card and said first entity is an
2 individual.

1 31. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein said comparing routine compares an expiration date
2 field to a date.

1 32. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein said comparing routine compares a birth date field to
2 a present date.

1 33. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said comparing routine outputs an age of said individual.

1 34. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said comparing routine compares a birth date field to
2 a predetermined value corresponding to age restricted sales transaction.

1 35. An apparatus for examining a document having identification information associated with
2 a first entity, said apparatus comprising:

3 a computing device having a memory;

4 a computer program, for execution in the computing device, having a routine for
5 determining a data format for said identification information in response to information read
6 from said document that is not provided by said first entity.

1 36. The apparatus according to claim 35 further including:

2 a reader to read information from said document;

3 said reader being selected from the group consisting of a magnetic stripe reader and a bar
4 code reader;

5 a user interface including a input device having a keyboard and an output device;

6 said output device being selected from the group consisting of a display screen, a speaker
7 and a printer.

8 a communication link for connecting to a remote device; and

9 said computer program including a routine for dividing said identification information
10 into fields;

11 wherein at least one of said fields is communicated to said user interface or said communication
12 link or said user interface and communication link.

1 37. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein:

2 said first entity is an individual;

3 said at least one of said fields is selected from the group consisting a name field, a
4 mailing address field, an state field, a zip code field, a date of birth field, an eye color field, a
5 hair color field, a vision field and an expiration date field.

6 38. The apparatus of claim 37 wherein said computer program includes a routine for
7 comparing said at least one of said fields to a predetermined value.

8 39. An apparatus for examining identification documents, said apparatus comprising:

9 a processor;

10 a computer program, for execution by said processor, for causing said apparatus to:

11 in a first instance, retrieve identification information in response to information
12 read from a first document issued by a first entity; and

1 in a second instance, retrieve identification information in response to information
2 read from a second document issued by a second entity;

3 wherein identification information on said first document is formatted differently than
4 identification information on said second document.

1 40. An apparatus for examining identification documents associated with first entities, said
2 apparatus comprising:

3 a processor;

4 a database including at least one issuer identifier corresponding to at least one method for
5 retrieving identification information from information read from a document; and

6 a computer program, for execution by said processor, for:

7 examining each of said documents to determine an issuer identifier; and

8 retrieving identification information from each of said documents using said at
9 least one method corresponding to said determined issuer identifier.

1 41. Apparatus for examining a document provided by any of a plurality of issuers and having
2 identification information associated with an individual and issuer information associated with
3 the document issuer, said apparatus comprising:

4 a processor; and

5 a computer program, executing on said processor, causing said apparatus to examine said
6 issuer information, use said examined issuer information to retrieve a predetermined part of the
7 identification information, and provide an output in response to the retrieved information.

1 42. The apparatus of claim 41 wherein said other information is provided by said issuer and
2 not by said individual.

1 43. The apparatus of claim 41 wherein said other information identifies the issuer.

1 44. The apparatus of claim 41 wherein the identification information is arranged differently
2 for different ones of said issuers

1 45. Apparatus for examining a document provided by any one of a plurality of issuers and
2 having identification information associated with an individual as well as issuer information
3 associated with the document issuer, said apparatus comprising:

4 a first apparatus portion for examining said issuer information to determine the document
5 issuer, and

6 a second apparatus portion responsive to the determined issuer for retrieving a
7 predetermined part of the identification information, and providing an output in response to the
8 retrieved information.

9 46. Apparatus for examining different documents wherein each document is associated with
10 a different individual and provided by any one of a plurality of issuers and having dependent
11 information which is dependent on the associated individual as well as independent information
12 which is independent of such individual, said apparatus comprising:

13 a processor;

14 a computer program, executing on said processor, to cause said apparatus to examine said
15 independent information, use said examined independent information to examine a
16 predetermined part of the dependent information, and provide an output responsive to such
17 examination.

18 47. Apparatus for examining a document associated with an individual, provided by any one
19 of a plurality of issuers and having information about the age of the individual as well as issuer
20 information associated with the document issuer, said apparatus comprising;

4 a first apparatus portion for examining said issuer information to determine the document
5 issuer; and

6 a second apparatus portion responsive to the determined document issuer for interpreting
7 the age information, and providing an output in response thereto.

1 48. Apparatus for examining a document associated with an individual and having a graphic
2 corresponding to said individual along with other information about said individual, said
3 apparatus comprising

4 a first apparatus portion for examining the graphic and other information and providing
5 one of a plurality of different results; and

6 a second apparatus portion responsive to the examination for providing an output
7 indicative of the different results.

8 49. The apparatus of claim 48 wherein said other information is machine readable.

1 50. The apparatus of claim 48 wherein said other information is human recognizable.